

Message Text

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ACTION FAA-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-11 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IGA-02 AID-20 OMB-01

TRSE-00 XMB-07 RSR-01 L-03 /075 W
----- 091963

R 191615 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8793

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, NI

SUBJECT: FAA ASSISTANCE FOR NIGERIA

DEPT PASS FAA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: TRANSPORT DEPUTY PERSEC OBI REQUESTS TRANSMISSION COST ESTIMATES PROMISED BY BAKER AND LUECKER DURING THEIR JANUARY VISIT. HE CAUTIONS AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT NOW TO REVERT TO EARLIER PROPOSAL TO DO PRELIMINARY STUDY BEFORE LAUNCHING FULL- SCALE PROJECT. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER TODAY HAD THOROUGH DISCUSSION WITH TRANSPORT DEPUTY PERMSEC FMC OBI ON FMG VIEWS OF DEVELOPMENT OF FAA PROPOSAL FOR ASSISTANCE TO NIGERIA'S CIVIL AVIATION PROGRAM. OBI EMPHASIZED MOT MUST SHOW EARLY PROGRESS IN ATTACKING ITS PRESSING CIVIL AVIATION PROBLEMS. HE BELIEVES MOST USEFUL STEP FAA COULD NOW TAKE WOULD BE TO SUBMIT PROMPTLY ITS ESTIMATES OF SCOPE AND COST OF ITS PROPOSED ASSISTANCE, NO MATTER HOW TENTATIVE THESE ESTIMATES MIGHT BE. IN FMG VIEW, BAKER AND LUECKER PROMISED THESE ESTIMATES FOR EARLY MARCH AND MOT IS HAVING HARD TIME EXPLAINING DELAY IN RECEIVING AND ACTING ON THEM. EMBASSY OFFICER EXPLAINED THAT DEVELOPMENT OF REASONABLY ACCURATE ESTIMATES HAS PROVEN TO BE QUITE DIFFICULT BECAUSE FAA
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IS NOT CERTAIN AS TO TYPE AND SIZE OF PROGRAM REQUIRED. AT SAME TIME, SOME USG OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE SIZE OF COST ESTIMATES THAT SEEM TO BE EMERGING AND HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR WAYS TO EASE THIS BURDEN FOR FMG. EMBASSY OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT U. S. LAW REQUIRES THAT FAA CHARGE FULL COST TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENT FOR ASSISTANCE IT RENDERS UNDER DIRECT GOVERNMENT-TO- GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS. SINCE FIGURES LIKELY TO BE TROUBLE-SOME, SOME PEOPLE HAVE BEEN URGING THAT THEY BE DEFINED THROUGH A PRELIMINARY STUDY, PERHAPS ALONG LINE OF ADVANCED STUDY GROUP OFTEN MENTIONED BY LAWSON. OBI ADMITTED LAWSON HAD INITIALLY PROPOSED SUCH AN APPROACH, BUT SAID THAT HE BELIEVES TIME FOR IT HAS PASSED. IN VIEW OF TWO ACCIDENTS AND PUBLICITY EMANATING FROM KANO ACCIDENT INQUIRY, FMG MUST HAVE EARLY ACTION, NOT MORE STUDY. OBI BELIEVES THAT ANY CREDIBLE FAA OFFER SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY AT LEAST TENTATIVE ESTIMATES OF FULL COST AND SCOPE OF PROGRAM.

3. WHEN EMBASSY OFFICER ASKED HOW MOT INTENDS TO DEAL WITH FIGURES WHICH WE HAVE BOTH KNOWN FOR SOME TIME WOULD BE VIEWED AS EXTREMELY HIGH IN MANY FMG QUARTERS. OBI REPLIED THAT BECAUSE OF URGENCY HIGHER COSTS MAY NOW BE MORE TOLERABLE. IN ADDITION, HE SAID THERE IS ALWAYS POSSIBILITY OF TRYING TO FIT AT LEAST PART OF THE PROPOSAL UNDER AID PROGRAM.

4. COURTNEY IS PLACING TELEPHONE CALL TO GEORGE LUECKER FOR MORNING OF MARCH 20 BETWEEN 9:00 AND 11:00 EASTER STANDARD TIME FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF BAKER PARTICIPATION.

5. RECOMMENDATION: EMBASSY BELIEVES FAA SHOULD PROMPTLY DISPATCH ESTIMATES, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE VERY TENTATIVE. REINHARDT

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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